



HR0130

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to recognize the City of Greenville  
4 on the occasion of its 200th anniversary in 2015; and

5           WHEREAS, The City of Greenville was founded in 1815 by  
6 George Davidson, 3 years before Illinois' statehood; in 1817,  
7 Bond County was formed, and, in 1820, Greenville became the  
8 county seat; and

9           WHEREAS, While the United States grew westward in the  
10 1800s, important new transportation routes came through  
11 Greenville; in the 1840s, local citizens completed the National  
12 Road from Vandalia to St. Louis; intersecting with the National  
13 Road at Greenville was the Black Diamond Trail, later known as  
14 Route 127, which connected Southern Illinois with Springfield;  
15 1870 saw the completion of the St. Louis, Vandalia, and Terre  
16 Haute Railroad, which passed through Greenville, sustaining  
17 Greenville as a prominent industrial town; in the 1930s, the  
18 building of present US Route 40, then one of the longest roads  
19 in the nation, started in the area; in 1968, the exit for  
20 Interstate 70, one of the busiest highways in the country,  
21 opened at Greenville; and

22           WHEREAS, In the 1840s, many Greenville homes were secretly

1 included as stops along the Underground Railroad, helping  
2 former slaves escape north to freedom; many men in Greenville  
3 and Bond County served in State regiments during the Civil War,  
4 including parts of the Illinois 130th, which fought in the  
5 Battle of Vicksburg; and

6 WHEREAS, When Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas gave  
7 speeches during their 1858 race for the United States Senate,  
8 Douglas stated: "Ladies and Gentlemen it gives me great and  
9 supreme gratification and pleasure to see this vast concord of  
10 people assembled to hear me upon my first visit to Old Bond.";   
11 the Illinois State Register reported of the occasion: "I've  
12 seen many gatherings in Old Bond County, but I never saw  
13 anything equal to this and I never expect to"; and

14 WHEREAS, Greenville has continuously attracted industry  
15 since the 1890s, beginning with DeMoulin Brothers, makers of  
16 lodge initiation devices and uniforms, and Helvetia Milk  
17 Condensing, which eventually became Pet Milk Company;  
18 throughout the 20th century, many more businesses followed,  
19 including the Model Glove Company, Coates Steel Products, and  
20 the Nevco Scoreboard Company; in the 1980s, Carlisle Syntec,  
21 Peterson Spring, and United Stationers opened facilities in  
22 Greenville's 2 industrial parks; Donnewald Distributing  
23 Company is the most recent enterprise to join the community;  
24 and

1           WHEREAS, Greenville has a strong historical connection to  
2 education, including the decision in the 1860s to institute a  
3 first-through-twelfth grade public education system, becoming  
4 one of the earliest schools in Illinois to do so; also in that  
5 decade, Almira College began as an all-women's school; in 1892,  
6 it became the co-educational Greenville College; in 1905,  
7 thanks to a grant from Andrew Carnegie, the Ladies Social  
8 Circle opened the Greenville Public Library, now included in  
9 the National Register of Historic Places; and

10           WHEREAS, On November 21, 1915, the Liberty Bell passed  
11 through Greenville on its nationwide tour returning to  
12 Pennsylvania from the Panama-Pacific International Exposition  
13 in San Francisco; following the trip, the Liberty Bell returned  
14 to Pennsylvania, never to be moved again; and

15           WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan visited Greenville on the campaign  
16 trail for President in 1980 and gave a speech on the street in  
17 front of the courthouse; his time there is commemorated by a  
18 plaque; Barack Obama, elected President in November of 2008,  
19 also visited Greenville while campaigning for the Senate in  
20 2004; therefore, be it

21           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
22 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we

1 recognize the City of Greenville on its rich 200 years of  
2 history and wish them success and prosperity in the future; and  
3 be it further

4       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
5 presented to the City of Greenville as a symbol of our esteem  
6 and respect.